passenger corridors, equipped with state of the art signalling and train control systems, for running high speed trains of 300 to 350 kms per hour; one each in the Northern, Western, Southern and Eastern regions of the country. The issue of implementation will be examined later.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. However, the high speed train corridors being highly capital intensive, Railways will find it difficult to fund the project fully. Therefore, all modes of financing such as public private partnership, funding by State Government etc. will be explored.

Direct train from Delhi to Lahore

2722. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Attari station, the important terminal of Samjhouta Express is not in a good shape and what steps are being taken for its improvement;

(b) whether there is any proposal to have a direct train from Delhi to Lahore, like the direct bus; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Attari station is in good shape. For further improvements of the station, however, following works have been sanctioned:

(i) 'Upgradation of Attari station' at a cost of Rs. 17.68 crores.

(ii) Improvement to waiting hall, booking counter and additional toilets at a cost of Rs. 52.08 lakhs.

(b) and (c) Train no. 4001/4002 Delhi-Attari Link Express running between Delhi and Attari and Train No. 4607/4608 Samjhouta Express between Attari and Lahore (Bi-weekly) are presently available.

At present, there is no proposal to introduce any new train from Delhi to Lahore.

Electrification of rail track in Assam

2723. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal for electrification of railway track in Assam;

(b) if so, what is the status of such proposal; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?,

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Electrification of Barauni-Katihar-Guwahati rail line, part of which falls in Assam, is under examination in Planning Commission.